



FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

Welcome

Our mission is to know Christ, serve Him,
and make Him known.

~ **Gathering Before the Word** ~

Welcome Eddie Spencer

Prelude and Preparation for Worship Dallas Boovy

Lighting of the Candles Camryn & Caylin Lowder

***Call to Worship** Psalm 111:1-4

Leader: Praise the Lord.

ALL: I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

Leader: Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are His deeds, and His righteousness endures forever.

***Hymn of Praise No. 604** *To God Be the Glory* CROSBY

***Prayer of Adoration**

Litany of Thanksgiving Kenyan Liturgy

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right and our delight to give You thanks and praise, for You are the great Father, living God, supreme over all the world.

All: From a wandering nomad You created a family; for a burdened people You raised up a leader;

Leader: For a confused nation You chose a king; for a rebellious crown You sent Your prophets.

All: In these last days You have sent us Your Son, Your perfect image, bringing Your kingdom, revealing Your will, dying, rising, reigning, remaking Your people for Yourself.

Leader: Through Him You have poured out Your Holy Spirit, filling us with light and life!

All: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

***Hymn of Thanksgiving** *Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET
(See Insert)

Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family

Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Word With Our Children

Michelle Walker

***Doxology No. 965**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Offering and Special Music

Amazing Grace

Dempsey

Abigail Malinovsky, clarinet & Jordan Stowe, alto saxophone

Scripture Reading

Luke 14:15-24

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Sermon

“Gospel Hospitality”

Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

***Sending Hymn No. 739**

I Surrender All

SURRENDER

***Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

Showers of Blessings

Whittle

*All who are able, please stand
CCLI# 2221136

welcome

Welcome! We are delighted that you are worshiping with us this morning, and hope you find today meaningful and refreshing. Visitors are asked to fill out a Visitor Information Card, located in the pew, and place it in the offering plate. Prayer Requests may be noted on the reverse side of the same card.

Wifi is accessible throughout our common areas. You may log in to First Presbyterian Guest with the password: Praise!!

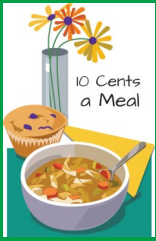
Children's Activity Bags are available for children aged 3 to grade 5. They include a children's bulletin related to the Sunday sermon, crayons, and scrap paper.

Children's Church is available for children 4 years through 2nd grade. After the "Word with our Children," they will be escorted to their classroom in the Church Nursery. Parents should report to the classroom immediately following worship to pick up their children.

A Nursery is available for newborns through age 4. It is located in the Educational Building. If you need assistance or directions, an usher would be happy to help you!



The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Barbara Goodnight Wise by her family.



This Sunday marks our monthly 10 Cents A Meal collection. Donations are shared between Compassion International, Cabarrus Meals-on-Wheels, and Cooperative Christian Ministry. Donation jars are in the Narthex for your offerings.



The church will be decorated for Advent on Saturday, December 2, beginning at 2:00pm. Help is needed to lift and carry boxes down from the third floor, set up the altar extension and large tree, and hang greenery!

**Our Journey Youth will present their Christmas extravaganza
"We Are the Reason"**

on Sunday, December 3 at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall! We'll start with a delicious Christmas dinner provided by the Fellowship Team. Then you're sure to feel the spirit of Christmas as our youth lead us in song, dance, and lots of fun! Please RSVP in the Narthex. If you need a ride, see Michelle. Come remember with us the real reason we celebrate!!!



A combined choir from First Pres and Kimball Memorial Lutheran will present the Christmas Cantata, "Emmanuel - God with Us!" by Lloyd Larson on Sunday, December 10, at 6:00pm. It will be a service of lessons and carols with a variety of musical styles. You are invited to Kimball for this special reflection on the Advent and Christmas season.

The JOY Group will gather for a Christmas lunch at the home of Ron and Alpha Barger on Wednesday, December 13 at noon. Entrée will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex for a side or dessert. See Dave Argabrite for more information!



First Presbyterian is pleased to welcome our 2023

Confirmation Class into membership on Sunday, December 17! In their honor, the Women's Council invites the congregation to a covered-dish luncheon immediately following worship that day. Mr. C's chicken will be provided, but please bring plenty of other dishes to share, including desserts.



Journey Youth and their families are invited to Christmas at the Billy Graham Library on Wednesday, December 20. Dinner will be provided at church, beginning at 5pm. We will leave for Charlotte around pm. Experiences at the Library include the Journey of Faith tour, a live nativity, and horse-drawn carriage rides. We will enjoy a sweet treat before we return.

Please **RSVP to Michelle by THIS SUNDAY, November 26**, so tickets can be secured before they sell out.



THANK YOU to all who donated to, shopped for, packed, and prayed over our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection this year. God provided 422 "gospel opportunities" for First Presbyterian to share with children around the world. A special

word of gratitude to all who volunteered at our OCC Drop Off. Thanks to your efforts, we were able to collect, box up and pray over 3,170 shoeboxes in 2023. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!!



Dave Argabrite will be in the hallway outside the parlor THIS SUNDAY to take photos for our online church directory. If you don't have a photo for you or your family, but would like to be included, please stop by and see Dave!



Dear First Presbyterian friends,

Thank you for the cards, visits, flowers, texts and phone calls to me and our family during Charles' time in the hospital and his "Home Going". And to Pastor Eddie: Thank you for the gift of your presence and comfort to Charles and for officiating a beautiful service. You all have blessed me and our family so very much. Becky Seaford

Prayer Concerns

Help us keep Prayer Concerns current with weekly updates. Email the church or note on a prayer card & place in the offering plate.

CHURCH FAMILY

- Linda Bost and family - loss of Danny
- Sadie Porter and family - loss of grandmother
- Sandy Bessent and family - loss of husband, Paul
- Roxanne Spencer and family - loss of mother
- Becky Seaford and family - loss of husband, Charles
- Steve Goodnight and family - loss of sister, Barbara Wise
- Richard Robert's family - loss of Richard
- Kay McAllister - recovery from wrist and knee surgery
- Hank Cranford - health concerns

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Bonnie Goodnight's father - health concerns
- Robert Little (Richard's brother) - new treatment for cancer
- Everett Halsell (Sue Maiocchi's dad) - treatment for cancer
- Justin Wallace (Melba Funderburk's grandson) - rare disease
- Sherry Bath (Amy Hurst's friend) - chemo and radiation treatments

HOMEBOUND

- Bob & Shirley Faust - Morningside
- Peggy Barnhardt - Morningside
- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Iris Efird - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks



This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, November 26

10 Cents A Meal

- 9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
 - Gracefull Movements
 - Dance Rehearsal
 - Acting Out Rehearsal
- 10:00am - Sunday School
- 11:00am - Worship Service
- 4:00pm - PraiseMaker's Christmas Rehearsal

Tuesday, November 28

- 11:00am - 2:00 pm Linda's Closet
- 12:00pm - NA

Wednesday, November 29

- 5:00pm - PraiseMakers Christmas Rehearsal

Thursday, November 30

- 10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study
- 12:00pm - NA

Friday, December 1

- 5:30 pm - Agape Chinese Baptist Church Stream Fellowship

Saturday, December 2

- 11:00am - Danny Bost Celebration of Life
- 2:00pm - Advent Decorating
- 2:00pm - PraiseMakers Christmas Rehearsal

Next Sunday, December 3

1st Sunday of Advent

- 9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
 - GraceFull Movements
 - Dance Rehearsal
 - Acting Out Rehearsal
- 10:00am - Sunday School
- 11:00am - Worship Service
- 6:00pm - "We Are the Reason" PraiseMakers Christmas Performance

SERVANTS

- Elder Lock-Up:** Lynn Sechler
- Children's Message:** Michelle Walker
- Children's Message Next week:** Acting Out
- Children's Church:** Lynn Efird & Amelia Caskey
- Children's Church next week:** Roxanne Spencer & Jenny Sparks
- Acolytes:** Camryn & Caylin Lowder
- Acolytes next week:** Scarlett Porter & Abby Vriesema
- Nursery:** Vickie Ellington
- Nursery next week:** Debbie McDaniel
- Ushers:** Jill McLain, Phil McLain, Todd Pless, Tony Rary
- Ushers next week:** Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks, Ryan Walker
- Greeters:** Cookie Hamilton, Jeff Barnhardt

FINANCIALS FOR OCTOBER

- YTD Income** \$251,004.60
- YTD Expenses** \$246,982.81
- YTD Budget** \$242,920.00
- Last week's attendance:** 11/19/23
- Worship - 103**
- Sunday School - 55**

